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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERES SERVICE

Southwest Region

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CODE ACTION 101 DATE ACTION TAKEN

Mr. Dan Masnada Executive Director Central Coast Water Authority 255 Industrial Way Buellton, California 93427

Dear Mr. Masnada:

The method of supplying Lake Cachuma/Bradbury Dam works Water from the State Water Project has been brought to my attention. I am concerned about the well-being of steelhead trout downstream in the Santa Ynez River. It appears that with this new State Water Project connection, low flows from the dam may consist of up to 100% State Water Project water.

"State water" is expected to be significantly warmer than deep water from Lake Cachuma and probably less than optimal for the well being of steelhead trout. Additional concerns exist as related to the chemical characteristics of the water, dissolved oxygen, and imprinting of fish with "State water." As you know the success of the fish rescue plan associated with the seismic retrofit could also be hindered if water of the appropriate quality is not available. Therefore, a long term-plan to protect the steelhead trout from additional impacts needs to be put in place in a timely manner.

To facilitate a solution to this issue my staff is prepared to work with you and other agencies to develop an appropriate plan to protect steelhead from undesirable impacts that may occur from the 'State water.' To assist my staff in their evaluation of this matter I have enclosed a list of questions and issues that will need to be addressed. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Martin Golden of my staff at (310) 980-4004.

Sincerely,

Hilda Diaz-Soltero Regional Administrator

Enclosure gg, gg and h

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- cc: B. Luce, BOR (Fresno) w/enclosure
 - J. Canaday, Ca. Wat. Res. Cont. Bd. (Sacramento) w/enclosure
 - R. Briggs, WQCB (San Luis Obispo) w/enclosure
 - P. Forsberg, CDFG (Sacramento) w/enclosure
 - D. McEwan, CDFG (Sacramento) w/enclosure
 - M. Cardenas, CDFG (Santa Barbara) w/enclosure
 - M. Capelli, CCC (Ventura) w/enclosure
 - E. Ballard, USFWS (Ventura) w/enclosure
 - J. Romero, EPA (San Francisco) w/enclosure
 - T. Stevens, COE (Ventura) w/enclosure
 - C. Dealy, BOR (Fresno) w/enclosure
 - J. McNamara, BOR (Fresno) w/enclosure
 - J. Edmondson, California Trout (Shadow Hills) w/enclosure
 - C. Fusaro (Santa Barbara) w/enclosure
 - B. Trautwein, S.B. Urban Creeks Council (Goleta) w/enclosure

Questions and Issues

To facilitate discussion on ways to prevent an adverse impact to steelhead trout in the Santa Ynez River from the introduction of "State water" the following questions and issues need to be addressed:

- 1) What is the flow rate (cfs) for "State water" that is expected to be delivered to Bradbury Dam?, by month.
- 2) What is the maximum flow rate (cfs) for "State water" that can be delivered to Bradbury Dam when the system becomes operational?
- 3) What is the amount (acre feet) of "State water" that is expected to be delivered to Bradbury Dam?, by month.
- What are the water quality characteristics (temperature, 4) dissolved oxygen, chemistry, etc.) of the "State water" that will be pumped to the Dam. Data should include characteristics of the water at its source and information regarding any changes expected at the point of discharge to the Lake/River (i.e. temperature and dissolved oxygen changes). Data should include daily maximum, minimum temperature, dissolved oxygen values, etc., and monthly averages for 1995 and 1996. Additionally, monthly minimum and maximum temperature values for the last 10 years would be desirable. To the extent that these data already exist in other documents, there probably is not a need to do new data runs. Should additional data compilations be necessary, coordination with NMFS staff may be desirable to eliminate unnecessary work.
- 5) What are the guiding principles to be used to determine when and how much "State water" will be delivered to Bradbury Dam?
- 6) What are the flexibility and constraints presently available in applying principles noted for #5 above?

Factors to be considered to protect steelhead trout include:
Avoiding new temperature, dissolved oxygen, and chemical impacts

Avoiding velocity barriers to long pool, stilling basin, & Hilton Creek

Avoiding impacts related to imprinting or attracting.